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AIR:

Analysis: Maryland Challenges EPA's Finding That Coal Plant Violates Clean

Air Rule. A 1,343-word [Baltimore Sun](#) (6/11, Dance) analysis reported Maryland is challenging the EPA's finding that the coal-burning Herbert A. Wagner Generating Station in Anne Arundel County has been "violating air pollution controls" by emitting levels of sulfur dioxide "known to trigger asthma and cause cancer." The EPA's findings are based on a Sierra Club analysis, which Maryland has called "erroneous," saying levels of sulfur dioxide have gone down around the plant following a change to burning "coal that contains less sulfur." Gov. Larry Hogan is cited as being "wary of environmental initiatives that could lead to higher energy costs for consumers."

Air Pollution Could Cost Global Economy \$2.6 Trillion A Year By 2060.

[CNN Money](#) (6/10, Yan) reported that a new study from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that outdoor air pollution could cost \$2.6 trillion a year, or 1% of global GDP, by 2060, in addition to as many as 9 million premature deaths.

Study: Light Pollution Hides Milky Way For Third Of World's Population.

The [AP](#) (6/11, Dunn, Writer) reported that "more than one-third of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way because of man-made lights." The report, published in the journal *Science Advances*, is "based on new satellite data and special software." The NPS' Dan Duriscoe, "a co-author, noted that some national parks in the West like Yellowstone are among the last refuges of darkness in the U.S."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (6/10, Fleur), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/10, Dennis), [Reuters](#) (6/10, Dunham), and [NPR](#) (6/10).

Additional Reading.

- ***EPA Dragging Feet On Fairbanks Air Pollution, Enviro's Say.*** [Law360](#). (6/10)
- ***Marathon To Cut Air Pollution From Detroit Refinery.*** [AP](#). (6/9, Williams)
- ***Youngstown Air Quality Tonight Can Cause Breathing Discomfort.*** [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#). (6/10)

BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS:

Companies Increasingly Use FOIAs To Challenge EPA Cleanups.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/10, Hayes) reported that companies are increasingly turning to Freedom of Information Acts (FOIA) to support challenges to EPA cleanup decisions. By filing a FOIA, a company may be able to uncover "records showing that a selected remedy is technically flawed or arbitrary and capricious." Moreover, the EPA "may also be encouraged to negotiate with the parties over the selected clean up" if information uncovered in a FOIA request "suggest that a remedy decision will be vulnerable in later litigation." Attorneys warn that FOIA action "are not without risk," as "they can be very expensive, and, in the context of cleanups under Superfund, may alienate the same attorneys with whom the parties will later have to negotiate, sources say."

Additional Reading.

- ***EPA To Start Scrubbing Houses Soon.*** [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#). (6/10)
- ***EPA Awards \$400,000 Assessment Grant To County's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.*** [Paw Paw \(MI\) Courier-Leader](#). (6/10)
- ***Federal 'Deception' Hides The True Cause Of The Gold King Mine Disaster.*** [Daily Caller](#). (6/9, Barton)

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Clean Power Plan Opponents Accuse EPA Of "Scare Tactics".

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/9, Childers) reported that the EPA's efforts encouraging states to continue their preparations for the Clean Power Plan during the judicial stay has been described as a "scare tactic" by the rule's opponents. During a June 9 hearing, Allison Wood, a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP who represents the power industry, said the EPA's insistence on moving forward with the plan is basically "an incentive program for early investment in renewable generation and energy efficiency effectively force states to continue their compliance planning."

Study: The Radiating Effects Of Climate Change. A more than 1,300-word

Washington Post (6/10, Harvey) analysis reported on a new study published on Friday in *Science Advances* by Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research professors Anders Leverman and Leonie Wenz. The study examined the effect of climate change on supply chain networks. The Post indicates that scientists have widely understood that certain parts of the world will be more affected by climate change than others. The study, however, indicated that given increasing globalization of supply chains, climate change that affects one area will reverberate throughout the supply chain to affect all parts of the world.

McAuliffe Receives D-Plus Grade On Climate Change Policies. In a Washington Post (6/10) opinion piece, Virginia Organizing chair Ladelle McWhorter and Chesapeake Climate Action Network director Mike Tidwell argue Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe ran as a “clean-energy candidate” but that he has only “supported minor measures on solar power, efficiency and grid improvements.” Rather, they maintain McAuliffe has “embraced” large-scale fossil fuel projects “that harm people and the environment.” This includes supporting the construction of two pipelines to transport fracked natural gas from West Virginia into Virginia and offshore drilling near Virginia Beach. McWhorter and Tidwell indicate McAuliffe received a D-plus grade for combating climate change.

House GOP Votes In Symbolic Disapproval Of Carbon Tax. A more than 1,650-word Politico (6/10, Schor, Restuccia) analysis reported House Republicans on Friday staged a vote “to express symbolic disapproval” against the possibility of a carbon tax they fear might become a reality under a new Hillary Clinton administration. While Clinton has not expressed support for a carbon tax, Sen. Chuck Schumer indicated the “potential for a bipartisan carbon tax” under Clinton “if both parties step forward.” According to Politico, the Friday vote was a preemptive move by Republicans against such a tax and is also an attempt to unify GOP lawmakers toward “fights they can win,” particularly in the current divisive climate fueled by Donald Trump’s racially-charged remarks.

The Hill (6/10, Cama) added President Obama and many Democrats, while supportive have not proposed a carbon tax measure, nor has the idea “taken hold as a serious legislative proposal in years.” The Hill indicated Republicans

have spoken “as if they were opposing a specific policy that has a significant chance of passage.”

Reuters (6/10, Morgan) further reported the vote was designed to “get Republicans on the record opposing higher taxes on fossil fuels” and to also assuage concerns from within the energy industry of a possible new tax. The vote included a resolution sponsored by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and supported by Koch Industries, which drew in support from 231 Republicans and 6 Democrats, while being opposed by 163 Democrats.

Additionally, the AP (6/10, Matthew Daly) reported one measure Republicans rejected as part of its resistance to climate change legislation is President Obama’s “call for a \$10-per-barrel fee on crude oil.” Meanwhile, Rep. John Larson criticized Republicans, saying their vote “has no force of law. All this does is say what the sensibilities of Congress are ... What the public thinks is that we’re all bluster and no solutions.”

ENFORCEMENT:

Additional Reading.

- ***Continuing Coverage: Cotter to pay EPA almost \$1 million.*** Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (6/11).

INTERNATIONAL:

Additional Reading.

- ***All Beijing School Running Tracks Tested For Poisons.*** TIME. (6/10)

OTHER NEWS:

Navajo Nation Requests Separate EPA Region Designation. The Farmington (NM) Daily Times (6/10, Smith) reported that the Navajo Nation has sent a letter to the Obama Administration requesting its own EPA region designation. The letter argues that the designation should be granted because of “how much time it took the EPA to notify the tribe about the Gold King Mine spill and how the agency continues to address abandoned uranium mines on tribal land.” Currently, EPA’s Region 9 Office in San Francisco has jurisdiction over the Navajo Nation.

EPA’s Urged To Allow Fannin County Reservoir Without Delay. An editorial in

the [Dallas Morning News](#) (6/10) claimed that the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA delayed completion of the Lower Bois d'Arc Reservoir in Fannin County, Texas, from 2020 to possibly 2022 by requiring a more detailed analysis of the environmental impact. The Morning News argued that while those agencies are "only following the law, but they're also making a high-stakes gamble with the region's economic well-being." Pointing out that North Texas' population is expected to see huge growth over the next twenty-five years, the Morning News urges the Army Corps and EPA to "allow this vital water project to be completed without further delay."

Additional Reading.

- ***EPA Honors Rocky Mountain Power For Making New Homes Energy Efficient.*** [KCSG-TV](#). St. George, UT (6/10)

PESTICIDES:

Additional Reading.

- ***EPA Glyphosate Mix-Up Triggers Scrutiny From Lawmakers.*** [Bloomberg BNA](#). (6/13, Schultz)

RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY

:

EPA "Does Nothing To Stop" Circumvention Of Chemical

Disclosures. As part of a three-part series, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/11, Dempsey, Collette) examined "the shortcomings of Local Emergency Planning Committees, the groups that the federal government says could prevent the next major incident." The committees were established to "share information about local dangers and prepare the community for any emergency." Although the EPA considers the committees to be "a cornerstone of reforms," the agency has done nothing to stop to state of Texas from "circumventing federal law" by withholding chemical inventories.

TOXICS/TSCA:

Hoosick Falls Residents Launch Twitter Campaign Highlighting PFOA Levels. The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (6/11,

Seiler) reported that a group of Hoosick Falls residents have launched a Twitter feed featuring photos of themselves holding signs that cites the amount of PFOA in their bodies. For example, a sign held up by Corey Aldrich listed his PFOA level at 142 parts per billion and read, "I'm only six ... can you ignore that?"

WATER:

Study Finds Consistent Contamination From Coal Ash Ponds Across Southeast US. [Duke University](#)

[\(NC\) Today](#) (6/10) reported that a recent study published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* found evidence that nearby surface waters and groundwater near 21 power plants across the southeast "are consistently and lastingly contaminated by unlined ponds." The study did not test drinking water wells, but that will be the next focus of the research. While some coal ash ponds are "legally permitted...to release liquid effluents to nearby surface waters through regulated outfalls, the new data show that these ponds are also leaking in unpermitted ways."

Decatur Utilities Makes Arrangement With Water Authority Over Discharged Chemicals. [Decatur \(AL\) Daily](#) (6/12) reported

that the Decatur Utilities wastewater treatment plant is discharging the same chemicals that lead to the EPA advisory for PFOA and PFOS. To dilute the chemicals, the West Morgan-East Lawrence Water Authority has begun purchasing 2.8 million gallons per day of drinking water from Decatur Utilities at a cost of nearly \$85,000. General Manager Don Sims criticized the arrangement, saying, "That's one way for them to sell the water. We'll just contaminate yours and sell you ours."

Additional Reading.

- ***Ohio EPA 'displeased' Wright-Patterson Missed Deadline For Water Test.*** [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#). (6/10, Barber)

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